120

The City of Rochester Society

1552 signatures

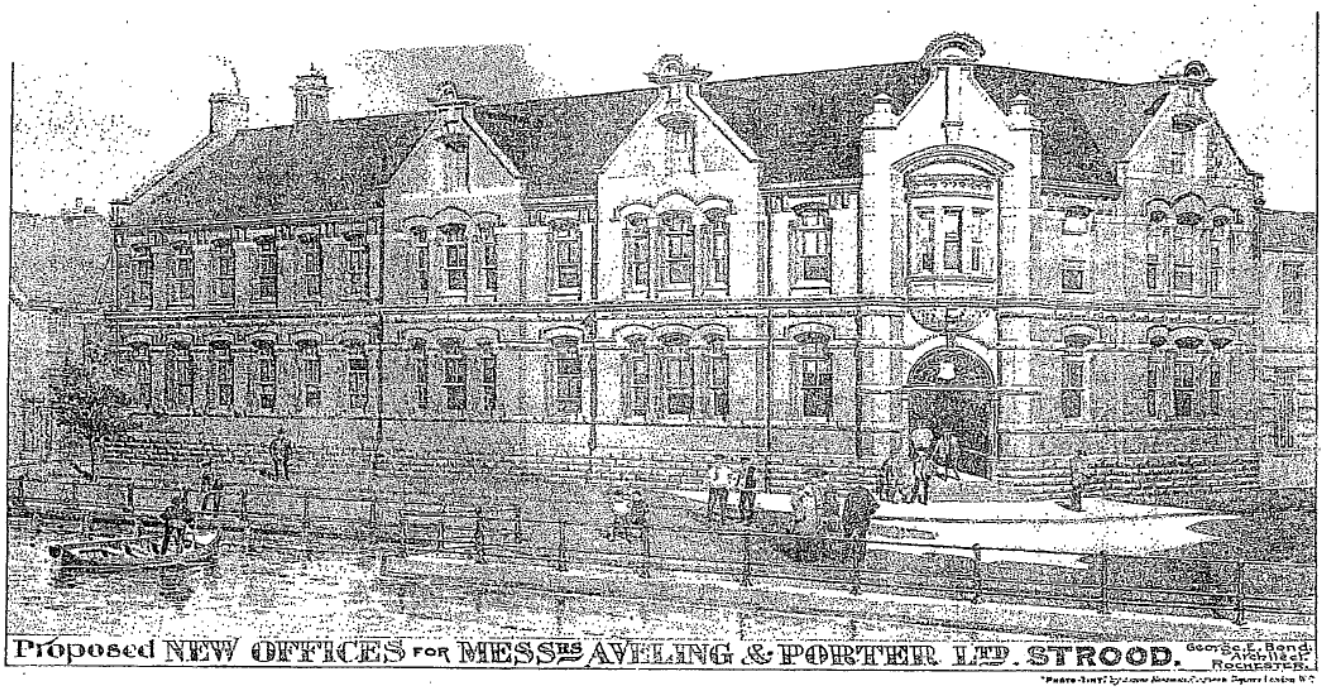
This Petition regarding the Aveling & Porter building at Strood is presented to Medway Council by the City of Rochester Society on behalf of the Aveling & Porter Group.

For further information please contact:

Mr R Ratcliffe
12 King Edward Road
Rochester
Kent
ME1 1UB

Telephone: 01634 846043

A
PETITION
TO MEDWAY COUNCIL

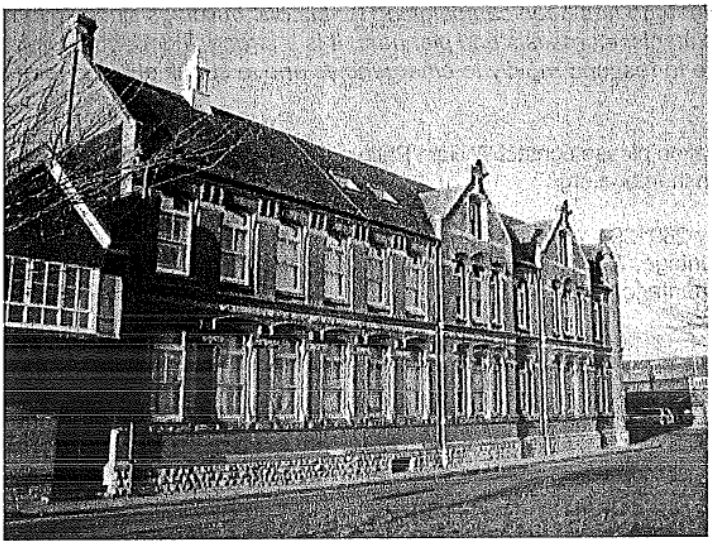


PRESENTED AT
THE COUNCIL MEETING OF
30TH JULY 2009,
ASKING THAT IT REFRAINS FROM
THE DEMOLITION OF
THE AVELING AND PORTER
BUILDING IN STROOD

SAVE
BRITAIN'S HERITAGE
70 Cowcross Street, London, EC1M 6EJ

PRESS RELEASE **29 July 2009**

SAVE ATTACKS COUNCIL OVER PLANS TO DESTROY EDWARDIAN LANDMARK



SAVE Britain's Heritage is calling for Medway Council to abandon plans to destroy a landmark Edwardian commercial building occupying a commanding position on the riverside at Strood in north Kent.

The unlisted Aveling and Porter building is one of only a handful of buildings of architectural and historic significance in Strood. It dates *c.*1906 and was designed by local architect George Bond as the headquarters of Aveling and Porter, manufacturers of agricultural engines. The firm built its first steam engine in 1861 and went on to become the world's leading producer of steam rollers. The firm's handsome office building has stood as a prominent landmark on Strood riverside for over 100 years. Now, the owners, Medway Council, want to see this fine, solid and well-maintained Edwardian building destroyed to facilitate the sale of the wider site to developers.

Although currently empty, the building is in good condition and remarkably intact (all the original windows survive for example). Clearly, it is eminently capable of conversion for a number of new uses. Its waterside location, with views across the Medway to Rochester is a major attraction.

The campaign to save the A&P building has been led by the City of Rochester Society which, on Thursday 30 July, will present a 1000-name petition to councillors. The petition calls for a proper study of potential new uses for the existing building. Suggested options for conversion include a boutique hotel and a new home for the nearby Medway Archive.

THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

1958
2008

Campaigning for Victorian and Edwardian architecture and other arts

Patron HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG, GCVO
President Lord (Asa) Briggs
Chairman Dr Colin Cunningham

Heloise Brown
Conservation Adviser
Direct line 020 8747 5892
heloise@victoriansociety.org.uk

Mr B Ratcliffe
12 King Edward Road
Rochester
Kent ME1 1UB

Your reference:
Our reference: 2008/06/016

16 June

Dear Mr Ratcliffe,

Aveling and Porter Offices, Strood Esplanade, Strood, Rochester, Kent (*GE Bond*, 1903-4)

Thank you much for your letter dated 27 May regarding the above building. I agree with you that this is a fine building that should be preserved.

From the information that you have provided I think that building is a good candidate for listing; it has forms a handsome street frontage with its characterful detailing around the windows and rusticated stone courses. The corner forming the main entrance is also dealt with in a very pleasing manner. The survival of the grander parts of the interior should help strengthen your case considerably.

As you say, this is an important and well-built part of the industrial heritage of the area by a noted architect. I would be happy to support your campaign to ensure the future of this building. Please do let me know if and when the local council make a planning application regarding this site. Do you know whether they have tried to sell the building?

I have enclosed a copy of our campaigning guide for your information.

Yours sincerely

Heloise Brown
Conservation Adviser

cc. Heritage Protection, English Heritage

The Victorian Society is a Registered Charity No. 1081435 and a Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England No. 3940996. Registered office as above.

Friends of Chatham Traction

Richard Bourne
Chairman

01904 766375
07771 831653
richard@thebournes.me.uk

31 Usher Park Road
Haxby
YORK
YO32 3RX

19 March 2009

Cllr. Rodney Chambers
Leader, Medway Council
Gun Wharf
Dock Road
CHATHAM
ME4 4TR

Copy to:
Cllr Sue Haydock
Bob Ratcliffe

Aveling & Porter Building, Strood

I understand that this building may be under threat of demolition, but also that an alternative proposal is for the building to become a Museum for Medway's industrial heritage.

Friends of Chatham Traction firmly support the latter view. The Medway area has a substantial industrial past ranging from Aircraft to Wharfage and it should certainly be recognised. This example of a George Bond building should remain and could itself feature a recognition of that architect's contribution to the area as part of such a museum.

Our organization aims to demonstrate the contribution of local transport to Medway's economy and community. We aim to restore the sole surviving bus from the Chatham Traction fleet for use as an educational resource. However a local repository for other artifacts and ephemera would allow the full story to be told.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Richard Bourne BSc CEng MIMechE
Chairman
Friends of Chatham Traction

Friends of Chatham Traction was formed in March 2007 with the aim of restoring the sole surviving Chatham Traction bus GKE 68 for use in the promotion of local history and heritage awareness in Medway.

Gillingham & Rainham Local History Society

Founded : 1950

Mr. R. W. Baker
130 First Avenue,
Gillingham,
Kent
ME7 2LQ

15th July, 2009

Dear Mr. Preston

I enclose a list of small number of people from the Gillingham and Rainham Local History Society who have signed the petition against the demolition of the old Aveling and Porter Building in Strood.

I am sure there would have been a greater number signing but we do not meet during the June/July/August period. Having spoken to members of our committee the society pledges its support against the demolition of the building.

I hope to be with you at the Gun Wharf on the 30th July, 2009 as a representative of our Society

Yours sincerely

Ron Baker

RICHARD WILLCOX
RAVENNA HOUSE,
STANLEY DOWNTON,
STONEHOUSE,
GLOS., GL10 3QU.

THE ROAD LOCOMOTIVE SOCIETY

17th June, 2009.

Dear Sirs,

I and my committee were most unhappy to hear of the proposed demolition of the remaining " Aveling and Porter " building in Rochester, and we urge the council to think again about this unhappy proposal.

It is in it's own right an attractive building, by a well known architect, and very pleasing to the eye. Far too many lovely old buildings have already suffered demolition world wide, and much that is unattractive built to replace them.

Also the council should remember the historical significance - Aveling and Porter, builders of steam rollers and traction engines on a large scale, put Rochester on the World map. Their products were exported to almost every country in the world, from America to Iceland, from Argentina to New Zealand, and everywhere inbetween. Thomas Aveling was known as the " father of the traction engine ", in the same way that George Stephenson was known as the " father of the steam railway engine ".

If this planned demolition goes ahead, it will be nothing better then official vandalism, and the town will be the poorer for it. Rochester should be proud of it's industrial heritage instead of sweeping all traces of it away.

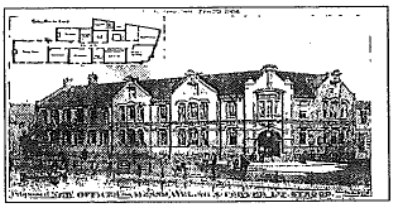
Yours sincerely,

Richard Willcox

Richard Willcox, Chairman.

The R.L.S. is a registered charity.

1906



A petition to the Medway Council to not demolish the the Aveling Porter Building Strood

Form society X

Name	Address	
Mrs Y. Caleno	74 Chalfont Dr. Rainham.	
D.T. Caleno	" " " "	
Lisa Caleno.	12 Hybrid Close. Rochester.	
DEREK TURNER	OAK LODGE. CHESNUT ST. BORDEN	
SHIRLEY TURNER	" " "	
DAVID TURNER	" " "	
Sue Rimes	11 High Bank, Rochester	
Terry Rimes	" " "	
HOLLY PILLEN	8 HARDY CLOSE, ~~&~~ MES 7LL	
Leya Waters	21 Sharfleet Drive, Strood	
STEVE SMITH	7 SOUTHWARK RD STROOD	
Stuart Buck	10 Ordance Terrace Chatham ME4 6PT	
P. HUMPHREY	22 CUNNINGHAM HOUSE ST MARGARET ST MEIRYZ	
P. GILLARD	9, HIGH STREET STROOD	
C Broad	52, CORDELIA CRESCENT, BORSTAL	
EA MOOREY	MEDWAY BRIDGE MARINA	
D R Wheell	51 Thorold Rd Chatham	
Rob Wells	12 Pheasant Road	
Gemma Webster	12 Pheasant Road	
Dave Wells	24 Scotts Terrace	
Kim Wells	24 Scotts Terrace	
RICHARD CANE	47 COPPERFIELD ROAD, ROCHESTER	
MICK MUNDAY	9 WOODSIDE GRISSIN ROCHESTER	
JAMES CHRYSTIE	8 CHATSWORTH ~~RD~~ DRIVE ROCHESTER	
A PROUD	53 HARPTREE WALDERSLADE	
S. James	44 Love Lane ME1 1JD	
P. James	44 Love Lane ME1 1JD	
Chloe Porter	30 Tupman Close, Rochester ME1 1RS	
29		